

The Fishery Boundies Question.

THE PRESENT POSITION OF THE QUESTION BEFORE CONGRESS.—FORTHCOMING REPORT ON THE SUBJECT BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, REPUBLICANS AGAINST THE REPEAL AND DEMOCRATS FOR IT.—THE ARGUMENTS ON BOTH SIDES.—VOTE ON THE PASSAGE OF THE BILL IN THIS SENATE—WILL THE BILL PASS THE HOUSE?

We learn from Washington that the bill for the repeal of the fishery boundies, passed by the Senate on the 19th May last, and in the House referred to the Committee on Commerce, will shortly be reported back by that committee, with a recommendation for its passage. The following article, showing the present position of the question, and the arguments on both sides, has therefore been prepared.—

Fisher Ames' Sad, in the first Congress of the United States, "The catching of cod is a very momentous concern," and certainly it seems, from the interest which it has excited all over the world, the imminent danger of war which it often occasions, and the present agitation of the subject, that Mr. Ames was right.

The fishery boundies, according to the policy of the government since 1789—with the exception of an interregnum of six years, from 1807 to 1813—are paid to those engaged in the cod fisheries, according to the amounts caught, carried or exported. In 1815 they amounted to \$1,511, and in 1857 to \$601,453. The total amount paid has been \$12,128,532, or an average of \$205,000 per annum. The average for the last ten years has, however, been \$326,000. They have been generally considered as a class of reward which have always proved efficient and ready in time of war. They have been paid under all administrations but Mr. Jefferson's, up to the present time, and now the House has under consideration a bill introduced by Mr. Clay, of Alabama, which passed the Senate, requiring the boundies to be discontinued.

THE ARGUMENT FOR THE SUSPENSION OF THE BOUNDIES.

It is urged by those in favor of the repeal of these boundies that however much they may have been appropriate at the time they were first instituted, they are now but a subsidy to a local interest, and an unfair appropriation of the government's money. The amount of the boundies, also, in the passage of the law has been divided among about fifteen thousand persons, of whom sum Maine and Massachusetts have received twelve thousand.

The bill was then passed by a vote of 30 against 25. It takes effect from December 31, 1859.

The following are the years and sums:

Years.—Menses. Bayard, Benjamin, Birger, Bright, Brown, Clark, Collier, Converse, Davis, Elwin, French, Goss, Green, Hayne, Henderson, Hunter, Iverson, James, Johnson of Ark., Johnson of Tenn., Malony, Mason, Pearce, Peleg, Phillips, Pindell, Shidell, Thomas of N. J., Tombs, Wright and Yancey.

Years.—Menses. Allen, Bell, Brederode, Chandler, Clark, Collier, Converse, Davis, Elwin, French, Goss, Green, Hayne, Foster, Hale, Hamlin, Harlan, Bowles, King, Smith, Shields, Simonds, Stunt, Sumner, Wade and Wilson.

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